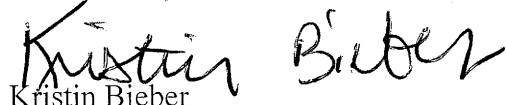


May 7, 2012

Dear Parent,

My name is Kristin Bieber, and I am a doctoral candidate in school psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am working with the Irving Recreation Center to conduct my dissertation about bullying. We are inviting your child to participate in a study, Youth's Understanding of Bullying. This study will take place at the Irving Recreation Center during the afterschool program, and will ask your child to anonymously answer questions about their definition of bullying and whether or not they have been bullied or have bullied others. The study will take approximately 10 minutes. Please complete and return the attached permission letter at your earliest convenience. To thank you for returning this letter, your child will receive a small reward, such as a pencil, whether or not you give your permission for him or her to participate. You can bring the letter to the front desk of the Irving Recreation Center, or you can send the letter to school with your child.

Thank You,



Kristin Bieber

Doctoral Candidate, UNL School Psychology Program  
Principal Investigator, Youth's Understanding of Bullying  
402-598-7906



Dan Payzant  
Center Director  
Irving Recreation Center  
402-441-7954

## **Youth's Understanding of Bullying Study: Frequently Asked Questions**

**1) Where will the study take place?**

If you give permission for your child to participate in this study, Kristin Bieber or a research assistant, will work with him or her at their after school program.

**2) How long will the study take?**

Your child will spend about 12 minutes answering questions with the researcher.

**3) Will my child receive counseling about bullying if they participate in this study?**

No, the purpose of this study is to gather information about children's understanding of bullying and what they mean when they say they are bullied or bully others. If your child shares information about his or her involvement in bullying that indicates they are being hurt or might hurt someone else, I will contact you and the director of their after school program, so that we can keep your child safe. I will also provide you with a list of counselors that you can contact who can help your child.

**4) Will I be able to know my child's answers to questions that they are asked in the study?**

No, your child's answers will be kept completely confidential. The only time that his or her answers would be shared with you, or other adults, is if he or she says that he or she has been harmed by another adult or another child. In this situation, I will need to contact the appropriate authorities in order to keep your child safe. However, I will try to talk with you about this situation first.

**5) Who will know the results of this study?**

After all the information is collected, the results of this study will be shared, anonymously, with your child's after school program director. These results will not identify the results for any one child, and no one will be able to tell what your child said. They will also be published in a dissertation, and possibly other scholarly journal articles or presentations. However, no identifying information will be revealed.

**6) How will my child's responses be kept private?**

The only person who will know your child's answers is the researcher. After your child completes the questionnaires, his or her name will be replaced with a number and only the researcher will know which numbers go with which names.

**7) Will participating in this study change my relationship with my child's after school program?**

No. Whether you decide to let your child participate in this study, or not, your relationship with your child's after school program, or any benefits to which you are otherwise entitled, will not change.

**8) Do I have to answer any questions?**

No, this study is only asking your child to answer questions.

### Youth's Understanding of Bullying Informed Consent Form

#### Project. Youth's Understanding of Bullying Study

**Purpose of the research.** The purpose of the Youth's Understanding of Bullying study is to examine youth's understanding of the definition of bullying used by researchers and the relationship of their understanding of this definition to their reported involvement in bullying. Your child is invited to participate because he or she is a 7, 8, 9, or 11,12, or 13 year-old at an after school program, recreation, or community center that is a part of the study.

**Procedures.** If you agree that your child can be part of this study, we will ask your child if he or she is willing to participate. If he or she also agrees to participate, we will ask your child to do the following at his or her after school program, recreation, or community center: (1) Complete a brief survey, The Bully Survey, in which he or she will be read a definition of bullying and then asked whether or not he or she has been bullied by other youth or has bullied other youth. (2) Complete a brief Cartoon Task, in which he or she will be read a definition of bullying and will then be shown 22 cartoons and asked if the cartoons represent bullying or not. This will take approximately 12 minutes and will take place in a private room. A copy of these measures will be kept in the school or facility office so that you can look at them.

**Risks and/or discomforts.** Your child may experience minimal risk. Your child may feel some discomfort when asked to report information about his or her experiences being bullied or bullying others. To minimize this risk, youth will be reminded that they can stop participating in the study at any time if they feel uncomfortable. You will also be provided with a list of counselors that you and your child can talk to about these feelings. If your child reports information about hurting him or herself or others, Kristin Bieber will contact you, and your child's after school program director, and together we will come up with a plan of action to help your child.

**Benefits.** Schools, recreation and community centers, and researchers will benefit from the Youth's Understanding of Bullying study because they will learn how well current methods work to assess youth's involvement in bullying, and what could be done to improve the ability of youth to better understand the definition of bullying to increase the accuracy of bully survey data.

**Confidentiality.** The Youth's Understanding of Bullying study will not identify students by name. Instead, all records will be marked with a number and only the researchers will know each participant's number. Records from this study will be stored in a locked cabinet in the university researcher's office and will only be seen by the researcher or research assistants. The information may be published in scientific journals or presented at professional meetings, but the information will be reported as group information and will not identify any participant. The only time that confidential information would be shared with others is in situations involving risk and/or harm to your child, to yourself, or to others.

**Compensation.** Your child will receive some compensation in the form of a small reward (e.g., pencil, small toy, soda) for participating in this study.

----- Please initial that this page has been read.



IRB# 20120411750EP  
Date Approved: 04/09/2012  
Valid Until: 04/08/2013

**Opportunity to ask questions.** You can ask questions about the Youth's Understanding of Bullying study and get answers to your questions now or anytime during the study. Or, you may call Kristin Bieber to discuss the study, telephone 402-598-7906, or email [kristin.bieber@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:kristin.bieber@huskers.unl.edu). If you have concerns about the study or if Kristin Bieber cannot answer questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institutional Review Board, telephone 402-472-6965.

**Freedom to Withdraw.** Your child's participation in this study is voluntary. You are free to decide not to let him or her participate or to withdraw at any time. If you withdraw from the study, it will not harm your relationship to Kristin Bieber, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, or your child's after school, recreation, or community center. If you withdraw, you will not lose access to any benefits or resources you are otherwise entitled to receive.

**Consent.** By signing, you are saying that you have decided your child can participate in this Youth's Understanding of Bullying study and that you have read and understood the information above. You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

I have read and understood the information presented in this consent form and agree that my child can participate in the Youth's Understanding of Bullying study.

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*Youth Name*

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*Parent Signature*

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*Date*

*Parent Telephone:* \_\_\_\_\_

Or, if you **DO NOT** want your child to be in this study, please complete **the section below**:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*please print your name*) **DO NOT** wish to give consent for my child,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*please print your child's name*) to participate.

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*Parent Signature*

-----  
*Date*

Kristin Bieber, Principal Investigator

Phone: 402-598-7906

Beth Doll, Faculty Adviser

Phone: 402-472-2238